

THE FRENCH BROAD NEWS

LEADING NEWSPAPER AND BEST ADVERTISING MEDIUM IN MADISON COUNTY.

VOL. III.

MARSHALL, MADISON COUNTY, N. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1909.

NO. 32.

HOW JOY AND GLADNESS CAME TO MRS. MALLORY

It was Christmas Eve. The snow, which had been falling all day now turned to rain. The dreary drizzle lent a chill to the air.

Mrs. Mallory stood at her drawing room window, and looked out on the silent avenue. There were few pedestrians in sight. Now and then a carriage came under the electric light, and the watcher at the window caught glimpses of the dainty raiment of the occupants as they whirled rapidly past on their way to some Christmas festivity.

"Christmas festivity!" she repeated aloud, and her voice was low and tense and expressed her pent up scorn and weariness of the whole Christmas season.

She stood thus for a few moments, staring out into the night. The damask portiere was pushed aside with a quick, light motion, and a slim, neatly attired maid appeared in the doorway. Her eyes fairly danced with delight, and though she spoke with a demure dignity it was evident that something highly pleasing to her fancy was afoot.

"Does it please you that I come in now, madam?" she asked, with a quaint little accent that would at once mark her Parisienne—had her trim appearance not already done so. Mrs. Mallory turned slowly from the window.

"Yes, Janette, you may bring in my Christmas gifts." There was a trace of irony in the last two words, but her manner was entirely haughty and indifferent. She crossed the room and sat in a large armchair of rare Italian hand-carved wood. The pale violet lamp screen on the table beside her shed a soft light, and the rose light from the great open fire caught a gleam now and then from the jewels on her fingers. It was a curious light, the combination of the rose and violet, but it was almost wondrously lovely. Mrs. Mallory was a beautiful woman—a stern, classic beauty. The folds of her black velvet gown fell about her in simple stately grace; her bare neck and shoulders gleamed white against the dark chair. Her hair was gray about the temples, and her deep dark eyes were at times inexpressible.

Christmas Eve. She had returned from a series of invitations, and was keeping her Christmas Eve as her custom, having her gifts brought to her there in the dimly-lighted drawing-room. Her husband was keeping his Christmas Eve, as was his custom, in the great dining room. Mr. Mallory was what the world calls an upright man—honored on the street, of a stilt-like integrity in his business. His word was as good as a bond. He surrounded his wife with every possible luxury, excepting the one priceless luxury for which a woman would sacrifice all others—friendship and comradeship. These he reserved for a few old friends, men who had been through financial battles with him, who had shared his college frolics and studies.

That afternoon he had hurried in, gathered up his hunting traps and started off. He had given his wife a check—a princely sum—and said: "Just buy yourself a little trinket, Victoria, my dear, and have a nice time at the Van Arden's tonight."

"If he had only bought me a little something himself," she thought, sadly. "If it were only a few flowers!"

Janette came in, followed by a footman in gorgeous livery carrying a large number of little packages of all shapes and sizes. He came several times and arranged the packages as Janette directed. The maid was all little flutterings and happiness and flitted from this box to that

The stately footman came into the room, the picture of shocked dignity. Janette was about to take the brown paper parcel which the footman held out stiffly before him, then started back with a little scream.

"The impertinence!" she cried. "What does this mean?" asked Mrs. Mallory, haughtily.

"A very ragged little girl left this awful package, madam. She insisted on its being given to you."

"Bring it to me."

The footman gave the crumpled bundle to his mistress.

"Misses Malry," was written in a round, childish scrawl. A strange feeling came over the woman.

"You may go," she said to Janette and the man, and the maid withdrew reluctantly.

When the hard knots of the string were finally taken off, Mrs. Mallory exclaimed in surprise. A little note, written in the same childish hand, was pinned to the curious pink cambric square. The note ran:

"Dear Misses Malry: You don't know me but you can to our house a wife ago and brot things when Joanne the baby had mesles. You was good to us, and we like you. We wish you a mery Christmas. The thing I made you is for your hankercuf."

"MAMIE O'DONNELL."

"What does the child mean?" thought Mrs. Mallory in great surprise.

The she remembered. The O'Donnells were on her charity list. She looked at the gift. It was a pink cambric square, the four corners turned back and tied with a ribbon. The stitches were large and uneven, the cambric was milled and the ribbon said. She looked closely at the ribbon. It had been used, evidently as a hair-ribbon. Suddenly a thought came to the woman—she remembered the day perfectly when she had brought some ragged child to her door. The mother was away at work, and the little sister kept house and cared for

the baby brother. The child had showed this pink ribbon proudly to the visitor; her "Sunday ribbon," she told her.

The great lady fingered the soiled, gaudy piece of pink cambric and ribbon gently, almost reverently, and there were tears in her voice as she said softly:

"Her one treasure, her bit of a ribbon—she gave it to me—she gave it to me because it is Christmas."

With a sob that was half joy, half sorrow, she laid her head over on the queer, shabby little offering and wept away all the grief and lonely heart-ache, for in the gift of a little child she had found her real Christmas.—Boston Globe.

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The maid placed the trinkets on the table for her mistress' inspection of her jewels that should have the power to give joy to any woman, but Mrs. Mallory looked at them indifferently, and toyed with them with her slender white fingers.

She frowned with displeasure as the maid laid before her a wrap of costly fur.

"My nephew should not have sent me this," she said sharply. "He cannot afford it. It was only because I gave them their wedding silver."

The maid did not hear this, for she was lost in raptures over a firmly matinee of real lace and hand-painted chiffon.

"Oh, the exquisite mouse," she cried, with more enthusiasm than knowledge of correct English.

Mrs. Mallory smiled little at the maid's quaint happiness in the gifts. She was rather fond of Janette and was often amused at the girl's extravagant expressions. Janette was a happy, care-free soul and always ready to enter to her every mood.

She ran to her mistress with a veritable little squeal of pleasure as she untied one box. It was a fine gold necklace with a butterfly pendant, frail, jewelled, delicate as a breeze.

Mrs. Mallory read the card and her face turned pale.

"Cat!" she whispered.

The gift was from a woman whom Mrs. Mallory thoroughly disliked, and she had not tried to side her feelings. The woman, through ambitions of her own, had persistently clung to Mrs. Mallory, and had used her name as the entree into many fashionable gatherings. As she looked at the jewel, Mrs. Mallory could have crushed its delicate beauty in her hand.

MADONNA IN CONTEMPLATION.



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NICARAGUA IN EXCITEMENT

News Storm Center of the Day.

VARYING ESTIMATES SITUATION

News That Zelaya Would Avoid an Engagement at Rama and, Making a Detour, Would Strike Bluefields.

Washington, Special.—Disquieting news received from Nicaragua at the State Department from official and unofficial sources to the effect that there is danger of an attack by President Zelaya's forces being made on Bluefields, where there are 150 Americans, resulted in orders being sent by wireless to the protected cruiser Tacoma with ten guns on board and a full complement of blue jackets, to proceed under full steam to Bluefields, there being the Des Moines and awaiting further orders.

The Prairie, now at Philadelphia, has been ordered to take on board seven hundred marines under the command of Colonel Biddle and steam as soon as possible to Colon. The importance and significance of these orders are minimized at the State Department, where it is said the Tacoma has been instructed to look out for American interests at Bluefields.

A dispatch of Saturday says: This city of Bluefields, the headquarters of the provisional government, has been thrown into alarm by a sudden realization of the strength of the government army against which General Estrada, the leader of the insurgents, had been supposed to have been making irrevocable headway. Estrada apparently has been bookwinded by Zelaya and now he is surprised if the latter's troops should appear before the city at any hour. Estrada is hoping for timely aid from the United States.

A staff correspondent of The Associated Press who recently arrived here has canvassed the situation and finds it less hopeful for the insurgents than has been believed.

A very recent dispatch however says, it is the opinion of Panamanians that President Zelaya of Nicaragua is riding for a fall, that he is deliberately working for an intervention by the United States, having in view the humiliation of suffering a military defeat at the hands of revolutionists.

For the past sixteen years, during which time Zelaya has been in power, according to the statements of men now on the isthmus who are conversant with affairs in that republic, Nicaragua has been ruled by a group of eight daring, clever and consequenceless men, who have looked upon the country as their own personal property.

This group has grown enormously rich by a systematized pillage of the revenues of the States and of individuals. It is estimated that Zelaya is worth about \$20,000,000 gold, most of which he has invested in Brussels and London.

It is said that when these men wanted a piece of property they offered about one tenth of its value and forced them to take their offer by threats of charge of treason before packed courts and juries and had them shot as traitors. A break was made when Zelaya refused to be fair in the distribution of the spoils.

Citizenship For Porto Ricans. Washington, Special.—Citizenship, without serious inconvenience to the individual, should be extended to those who desire it in Porto Rico, according to General Clarence R. Edwards, chief of the bureau of insular affairs, in his annual report Sunday to the Secretary of War. As to whether this is to be done as a whole or by individual merit is a matter of detail.

Trees For the Yuletide. Washington, Special.—Does the Yuletide with its demand for Christmas trees prove a menace to the American forests? This question is asked of the United States forestry service. The subject has received the serious consideration of the forestry bureau and the reply has been sent out that there need be no danger of destruction if the cutting of young evergreens for Christmas trees is done with discrimination.

Mrs. Reids Cause Advocated. Washington, Special.—The Biltmore postoffice affair has evidently reached the White House and made some sort of an impression on the President. The appointment of Luther, Representative Grant's man, should have been sent to the Senate Monday, but it did not appear. Evidently somebody at Asheville is putting up a bitter fight for Mrs. Reid, the woman who held the job. Senator Overman will hold up the confirmation should the name go in, until the real state of affairs can be ascertained.

Should Not Hurry Home. Washington, Special.—Appropriation legislation will be undertaken by Congress before the adjournment for the holidays. There has been a general supposition that all measures of any character would be postponed until after the first of January. Chairman Tamm of the committee on appropriations has just this morning announced that six appropriations bills could be introduced and passed before the adjournment.

Wash County Plant Burned. Spring Hops, Special.—The plant of the Wash County Manufacturing Company, which was burned to the ground at an early hour Saturday morning, will be rebuilt at once. The stockholders have not had a meeting as yet, but your correspondent has been informed by the principal stockholder that the plant will be rebuilt. The value of the plant was about \$5,000, with only \$3,500 insurance.

Fire Loss About \$5,000. Lexington, Special.—A more careful survey of the damage wrought Sunday night by the fire which destroyed the J. F. Hedrick livery stable shows that Mr. Hedrick is out about \$5,000. He carried \$2,000 insurance. A very large quantity of feed, including over 100 bushels of corn, was burned. Not a thing was saved from the flames but the office desk.

Ellis Pleads Guilty. Little Rock, Ark., Special.—W. Y. Ellis of Pine Bluff, Ark., whose trial on a charge of murder in connection with the killing of N. P. Willis of Indianapolis, Ind., resulted in a mistrial, late Saturday afternoon entered a plea of guilty of voluntary manslaughter, appealing to the mercy of the court for a minimum prison term. The case was reopened before Judge Lea in circuit court at the instance of the attorneys for Ellis.

Spas Father-in-Law For \$50,000. Charlotte, N. C., Special.—Summons have been issued by Mr. E. T. Stenerson against his father-in-law, a wealthy citizen of Baltimore, Md., and it is understood that in the civil suit which will follow in the course of Monday the plaintiff will seek damages in the sum of \$50,000, alleging the alienation of his wife's affections, she being a daughter of the defendant, Mr. Stenerson, and a sister of Mr. T. C. Guthrie, and a defendant named to have his case properly presented to the courts.

Setts His Sister on Fire. Luray, Special.—Miss Lillie Goehne, 17-year-old daughter of Mr. Daniel Goehne of this county, was horribly burned all over her body Tuesday morning.

The Goehne family arose early and the young girl was assisting her mother in the preparation of the morning meal. A little brother playfully remarked: "I'll burn you up," and, suiting the action to the word, applied a lighted match to the lower part of her clothes.

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TAR HEEL CHRONICLES

News Notes Gathered From All Parts of the Old North State.

Alleged to Have Two Wives.

Kinston, Special.—Phillip H. Howard was arrested Thursday night by Sheriff Nunn and placed in jail to await the coming of an officer from Cheraw, S. C., where he is wanted to answer to the charge of bigamy. The woman with whom Howard is alleged to have contracted the bigamous marriage is Miss Bessie Cullom, who with her father and mother lived in this city up until about a month ago when they moved to South Carolina. Howard followed them there and married the girl and a few days ago left, returning to his old home in this city. Officers notified the sheriff of his crime and had him arrested. Howard some years ago served a term on the county roads for fornication and adultery. He has a wife and a number of children living in this county out with whom he has not lived for five or six years.

Wife of Chief Justice Clark Dead.

Raleigh, Special.—Mrs. Clark, wife of Chief Justice Walter Clark of the North Carolina Supreme Court, died at noon Friday. She had been critically ill with pneumonia for several days, but there was such improvement during the past 24 hours that two of her brothers, Maj. John W. Graham of Hillsboro and Dr. George W. Graham of Charlotte, had left for their homes, assured that she had good prospect for recovery. However, a sinking spell, such as she had experienced several times in the past few days, came on and there was not left sufficient vitality for her to rally from its effects. Mrs. Clark was 53 years old. She was the daughter of Hon. W. A. Graham, one of the most distinguished men in the early history of the State. She is survived by her distinguished husband, seven children.

Methodist Appointments.

Charlotte, Special.—Somewhat of a shakeup in Methodist circles was created here Wednesday when, after communicating with Bishop James Atkins, Rev. H. K. Royer, presiding elder of the Charlotte district, announced that Rev. E. L. Bain, pastor of the Trinity Methodist church here, would be sent to Asheville to become presiding elder of that district. The change was reported by the recent death of Rev. John N. Higgins, presiding elder of the Statesville district, Sunday night. The new pastor for Trinity church here will be Rev. A. W. Plyler, former presiding elder of the Asheville district, and who last year devoted his time to study at Chicago University.

Southern Railway Shops Install Big Air Compressing Plant.

Spencer, Special.—What is believed to be one of the largest plants for compressing air to be found in the South has just been completed for the Southern Railway Company in its big shops at Spencer. The capacity of the plant, which is complete in all respects, is 2,500 cubic feet per minute which is more than double the size of the plant heretofore in operation in Spencer. The air will be used for drilling and other purposes in the shops here.

Tobacco Fair Abandoned.

Durham, Special.—The tobacco men, board of trade and merchants' association have abandoned the county tobacco fair for the present season. There wasn't a lack of enthusiasm, but a growing belief that the finest weed to be sold here, has been brought, or a part of the best, it was deemed unfair to those who raised an occasional barn of brag tobacco and sold it for \$35 a hundred, should lose the right to compete.

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